

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01549 171700Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 973

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1549

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, US
SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN VISIT

REF: STATE 059038

FROM AMBASSADOR

1. AS YOU KNOW THE QUESTION OF ADDRESSING A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS WAS RAISED WITH ME EARLIER BY SHARAF. I PARTICULARLY TOOK TIME OUT TO EXPLAIN TO THE KING AT OUR LAST MEETING EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT VISIT WOULD FOLLOW A COMMON PATTERN AND WOULD BE A WORKING AFFAIR. KING SEEMED TO INDICATE NO SPECIAL SENSITIVITY AND INDEED WELCOMED THE WORKING NATURE OF THE VISIT. I SEE NO REASON AT THIS POINT TO ASSUME THAT HE HAS A SPECIAL INTEREST IN ADDRESSING A JOINT SESSION. IF HE HAD, HE WOULD HAVE HAD A PERFECT OCCASION TO HAVE RAISED IT WITH ME AND HE IS NOT SHY ABOUT RAISING THINGS ON WHICH HE FEELS STRONGLY.

2. FURTHER, I SEE NO REASON, PARTICULARLY AT THIS POINT, WHY WE SHOULD BURDEN THE PRESIDENT, WHO HAS ALREADY DONE A GREAT DEAL, WITH MAKING THIS REQUEST OF THE SPEAKER. IT WOULD BE FAR MORE SUITABLE FROM MY POINT OF VIEW IF WE WERE TO SECURE AN EARLY FAVORABLE ANSWER ON PUBLICATION KING'S LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OR AT LEAST USE AS I HAVE SUGGESTED AND
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A FAVORABLE RESPONSE ON HOLDING A JMC MEETING BEFORE THE KING'S VISIT.

3. I WRITE THIS WITH ONE CAVEAT: IF AFTER TURNING DOWN DALAH'S REQUEST, WE WERE TO RECEIVE AN INDICATION FROM HIS MAJESTY OR DIRECTLY IN HIS NAME, WE SHOULD PREPARE TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE SITUATION. I DO NOT CONSIDER THE LAST POINT A SERIOUS

POSSIBILITY NOW, BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO EXCLUDE OUR REPPENIN
THE PROBLEM, GIVEN PREVAILING SITUATION OF UNCERTAINTY HERE
REGARDING OUR FUTURE RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF RECENT INCIDENTS
OF WHICH YOU ARE AS PAINFULLY AS I.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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